

Standard 6-4 The student will demonstrate an understanding of changing political, social, and economic cultures in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

6-4.5 Summarize the characteristics of the Islamic civilization and the geographic aspects of its expansion. (G, H)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been taught about the history of the Islamic civilization.

In 7th grade, students will explain the causes and key events of World War I, including the rise of nationalism, ethnic and ideological conflicts in different regions, political and economic rivalries (7-5.1). Students will explain the outcome and effects of World War I, including the conditions and failures of the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles and the effects of major treaties on population movement, the international economy, and shifts in borders (7-5.2). Students will also explain the causes and major features of the political and social change that occurred in the Middle East in the post-World War II period, including the role of nationalism, the creation of the state of Israel, and ongoing conflicts in the region (7-6.3).

In Global Studies, students will summarize the origins and expansion of Islam, including its basic beliefs, the emergence and the spread of an Islamic empire, the reasons for the split between Sunni and Shiite groups, and the changing role of women in the modern world (GS-2.2). Students will summarize the economic, geographic, and social influences of trans-Saharan trade on Africa, including education and the growth of cities (GS-2.3). Students will compare the political actions of European, Asian, and African nations in the era of imperial expansion, including the response of the Ottoman Empire to European commercial power (GS-4.5). Students will also summarize the causes of World War I, including the political and economic rivalries, ethnic and ideological conflicts, and nationalism and propaganda (GS 5-1).

It is essential for students to know that the Islamic civilization originated among the nomadic traders who inhabited and traveled throughout the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula in the early 7th century A.D. It is based upon the principles of the religion of Islam, as revealed to the prophet Muhammad and set down in Islam's holy book, the Quran (Koran). The foundation of this religion is the five pillars of Islam: (1) belief in one god, Allah, and that Muhammad is His prophet, (2) prayer five times throughout every day, (3) a pilgrimage to the holiest city, Mecca, at least once in a lifetime, (4) fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, and (5) the giving of alms. Believers in Islam, known as Muslims, accept the teachings of the Quran in every aspect of their lives; there is no separation of church and state. The two major denominations of Islam, Shiites and Sunnis, are based on what a Muslim believes is the legitimate line of succession to authority over the Muslim empire after the death of Muhammad.

It is essential to know that after Islam gained popularity around the Arabian Peninsula, its followers established an Islamic government whose control quickly spread to all of Southwest Asia. Within 100 years of Muhammad's death, through normal trade activities and armed

conquest sanctioned and even encouraged by the Quran, the Islamic empire expanded to include North Africa, Spain, and parts of India.

It is not essential for students to know the names of individual caliphs or dynasties in Islamic history, nor is it necessary for them to know the names of Muhammad's relatives, friends, or adversaries who struggled to gain control of the Islamic faith after his death.

Assessment guidelines: In order to measure understanding of the characteristics of the Islamic civilization and its expansion, appropriate assessments will require the student to **interpret** the everyday application of the Koran's teachings in all aspects of Islamic life, **explain** the connection between trade and conquest and the spread of Islam, and **summarize** the outwardly expanding pattern of this religion throughout the world.